

# THE MUNI MEMO

OF THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE SAN FRANCISCO MUNICIPAL RAILWAY

## Hawaii Here We Come!

Edward Cummings of Woods Division, Jasper Collier of Street Operations, and Paul D. Hicks of Potrero Division will soon be saying "Aloha." They were the lucky winners of three Grand Prize trips to Hawaii at the Annual Awards Reception on January 9th at the Westin St. Francis Hotel. And they weren't the only fortunate ones.

The following 1990 Muni award winners also won prizes: for Second Prizes of trips to Kirkwood Ski Resort — Robert Nervis, Cable Car; Flora Jaochico, Engineering; and Ding Wah Tom, Presidio; for Third Prizes of Wine Country Bus Tours — Alben Chang, Cable Car; Hamilton Lew, Presidio; and Robert Y. Moore, Jr., Kirkland; for Fourth Prizes of Hornblower Yacht Dinner Cruises — Ben Castro, Sr., Kirkland; Kenneth Sapp, Flynn; and Julio Lopez, Potrero; for Fifth Prizes of dinners at a prominent SF restaurant — John Nevin, Green; Art Curtis, Surface Transportation; Curtis Jones, Administration; for Sixth Prizes of dinners at Houlihan's — Harvey Mitchell, Presidio; Eddy Ribay, Ways and Structures; for special prizes of a Savings Bond — Hazel Long-

*Continued on pg. 8*

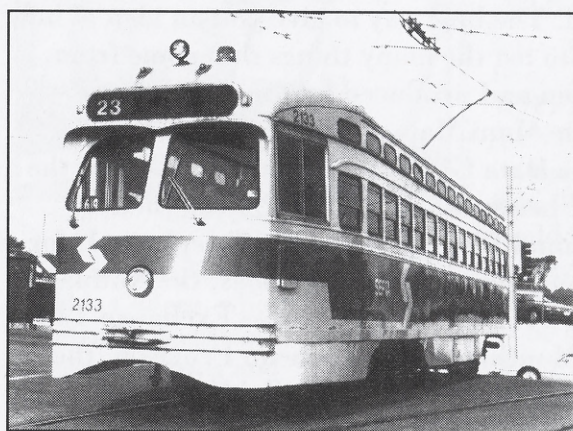
## The Reincarnation of the PCC

Described by one consultant to Muni as the "greatest light rail car ever built," the PCC will be making a comeback at Muni within the next three years. As part of the continuing Market Street Transit Thoroughfare Project, plans call for the restoration of year-round streetcar service on Market Street by 1994, and

PCCs with open arms.

Muni currently has 45 deteriorated PCCs in storage but has opted to purchase 20 previously rehabilitated PCCs from SEPTA in Philadelphia at a cheaper price than what it would cost to fully rehabilitate 20 of our own cars. Some additional modification and renovation will be made to the SEPTA

cars to make them compatible with our system. Once track is restored on upper Market Street from Duboce to Castro, and reconstructed from 10th Street to Duboce, all of which is scheduled to be done by late 1993, revenue service can start with the January 1994 sign-up or sooner on the new F Market line between Castro and the



*Philadelphia PCC car 2133 is one of 20 SEPTA cars being refurbished by Muni.*

Transbay Terminal. Plans call for extension of the F line from Fremont to the Embarcadero and along the Embarcadero to Fisherman's Wharf by late 1996, although that schedule depends on the schedule for the Embarcadero freeway project.

Operating plans require at least 12 PCC cars running on the F line, to replace the 8 Market. Although the PCCs are historic cars, they will be con-

that means that the old PCC cars will once again become a familiar sight in San Francisco.

Muni gradually retired its fleet of 103 PCCs, which ran on the surface J, K, L, M and N lines, between 1980 and 1982, when the Boeing light rail vehicles went into service. Given the performance of the Boeing cars, many passengers and transit professionals will welcome the return of the

*Continued on pg. 8*



# Management Message



## Muni Blows Its Horn

Muni's reputation comes naturally from its service to the public. If transit vehicles are clean, operate well, and come on time and operators are cordial and helpful, passengers think highly of the Municipal Railway. Good service is the most effective communicator. But there is another communications aspect to Muni, without which the public would not know where to board buses, what the fare is, or where to find a lost object. That aspect consists of the public information distributed through the Community Affairs Department.

The Community Affairs Department is responsible for promoting the Municipal Railway, providing accurate information to passengers and the media, and honoring employees who perform their jobs well. The best way to give you an idea of how this is accomplished is to list the many things that come from, through, or are overseen and produced by the Community Affairs Department: the Muni Map, the Muni Passport, the Timetable booklets, the Data Guide, the Muni Fare Guide, the Metro Guide, Transit Shelter Maps, Market Street Shelter Maps, Cable Car Terminal Display Maps, the Telephone Information Center, the *Muni Memo*, the *Muni Times*, the Annual Awards Reception and Drawing, the Employee Exchange Talks, the Gold Awards, the Monthly Civic Luncheon Program, the Years of Service Recognition Program, the Cable Car Bell Ringing, press conferences, press releases, Lost and Found, special promotions such as the Cable Car 16 Festival, and the transit advertising contract which generates \$2.3 million a year to support Muni operations.

Without this communication arm of Muni, the other parts of Muni's "body" would have trouble functioning. Muni is like a complicated appliance and the materials and activities the Community Affairs Department produces are the instructions on how to use it accurately and safely. I salute the Community Affairs Department for a job well done.

Sincerely,  
Johnny Stein  
General Manager

## Employee Notice

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

The Rose Resnick Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired is looking for volunteers to help out in a variety of areas. Volunteers are needed to read to blind and visually impaired persons in their homes and help with job placement and recreation activities. Anyone with skills in folk dance, cooking and plant care is encouraged to contact the center if you can share some of your time and expertise. It's a rewarding feeling and it doesn't take much effort. To learn more about getting involved as a volunteer, call (415) 441-1980.

## Job File

Civil Service reports that the following job announcements will be targeted for January:

- 1958 Supervising Purchaser,
- 2719 Janitorial Services Assistant Supervisor, 2903 Eligibility Worker, 2905 Senior Eligibility Worker, 2914 Social Work Supervisor, 3258 Photography Director, 3550 Exhibition Designer, 3554 Associate Museum Registrar, 3556 Museum Registrar, 5122 Assistant City Architect, 5132 Manager, Bureau of Water Pollution Control, 5134 Deputy Manager, Bureau of Water Pollution Control, 5206 Associate Civil Engineer, 5208 Civil Engineer, 5262 Junior Landscape Architect, 5272 Assistant Landscape Architect, 5274 Landscape Architect, 6137 Assistant Industrial Hygienist, 6138 Industrial Hygienist, 6333 Senior Building Inspector, 6334 Chief Building Inspector, 6340 School Con-



struction Coordinator, 7243 Parking Meter Repairer Supervisor I, 7309 Car and Auto Painter, 8113 Court Clerk, 8204 Institutional Police Officer, 8205 Institutional Police Sergeant, 8206 Institutional Police Captain, 8209 Institutional Police Lieutenant, 8250 Fingerprint Technician II, 9345 Sheet Metal Supervisor I. The following positions have already been announced: 7379 Electrical Transit Mechanic, Muni, \$1450-\$1756 biweekly, non Civil Service provisional appointment until next Civil Service exam, apply by January 23, for info, call 554-1630; 7319 Electric Motor Repairer, Muni, \$37,700-\$45,656, apply immediately, for info, call 554-1660. 7134 Water Construction and Maintenance Superintendent, Water Department, \$2242-\$2272 biweekly, non Civil Service appointment until next Civil Service exam, apply by January 23, for info, call 554-1630; 2846 Nutritionist, Outpatient Department, Department of Public Health, \$1573-\$1909 biweekly, apply immediately, receipt of applications may be closed at any time, for info, call 821-8084. For information on these and other City positions, call the Civil Service Hotline at 557-4888. For PUC positions, call the PUC Hotline at 554-1669.

## Congrats!

The Division Operators of the Month for December 1990 were:

Flynn:	Vawanda Ferdinand
Green:	Lee Butler, Jr.
Kirkland:	Gilbert Go
Potrero:	Jose Gianelli
Presidio:	Alan Brow
Woods:	Edgar Medearis

# Unsung Hero

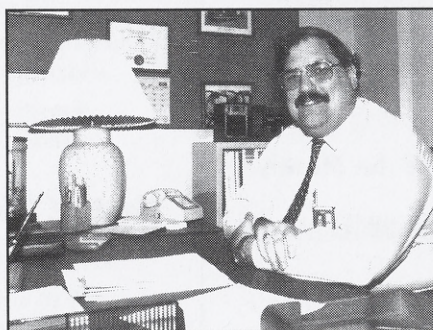


This is the sixth in a series of columns intended to recognize the Division Maintenance Superintendents

## Harry Jensen

Acting General Superintendent of Trolley Coach Maintenance and Superintendent of Running Repair, Green Division

**BACKGROUND:** Harry is a native San Franciscan. He was born on Cortland Avenue in Bernal Heights and moved to the Sunset when he was two. He attended Ulloa Grammar School, A.P. Giannini Junior High and Abraham Lincoln



Harry Jensen

High School. He went on to Healds College, where he received a certificate in Engineering Drafting and "a hearty handshake," he quips, stopping when he was six months short of his B.S. in Electronic Engineering.

Harry came to work for Muni in September 1975 as an Electric Transit Service Worker at Presidio Division. He held that position for seven years until 1982, when he was promoted to Shift Manager for the swing shift. In 1985, he became Superintendent of Running Repair at Green Division. In November 1989, he was appointed Acting Superintendent of Trolley Coach Maintenance and in

January 1990, was asked to be an advisor to Green Running Repair for five months. He now splits his time between supervising trolley coach maintenance and running repair activities at Green Division, no easy task.

**FAMILY:** Harry has been married to his wife, Kathy, who is a bank card credit officer at the Bank of America, for almost 20 years. They have five children, three girls and two boys, ranging in age from 17 to five.

**WHY MY JOB IS IMPORTANT:** When I began working on the floor as a mechanic, I immediately saw how things could be improved. Now as a manager, I have a direct hand in the improvements that need to be made.

**WHY I LIKE WHAT I DO:** I get to work with such a diversified group of people, both up and down the chain.

**SOMETHING NOT MANY PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT ME:** I'm extremely sensitive. Frequently people feel that managers don't have much sensitivity. I often have to make a distinction between my sensitive self and my job, however. I have to make decisions on a professional level that I wouldn't make in private life.

**OUTSIDE INTERESTS:** SF Muni Bowling League and motorcycle riding.

Photo: Carmen Magana



# Awards

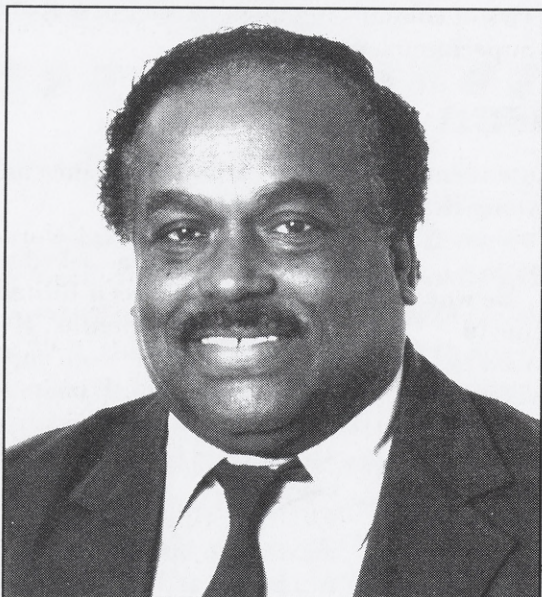


Photo: Carmen Magana

*December Operator of the Month Joseph Mitchell*

## December System-wide Operator of the Month

**Name:** Joseph Mitchell  
**Division:** Green  
**Years with Muni:** 33  
**Background:**  
     **Birthplace:** New Orleans  
     **Education:** Berkeley High School and a music conservatory in Oakland  
**Previous Employment:** U.S. Army military band  
**Marital Status:** Married to Leola  
**Children:** Daughters Mary and Shirley and granddaughters Ulma, 11, and Carrie, 3  
**Hobbies and Interests:** Playing the trumpet and flying airplanes. He is a licensed pilot.  
**Words of Wisdom:** "The Golden Rule."

## December Operator of the Month Runner-up

**Name:** Harland Lee  
**Division:** Green  
**Years with Muni:** Ten  
**Background:**  
     **Birthplace:** San Francisco  
     **Education:** B.A. Sociology, SF State University, 1973  
**Previous Employment:** U.S. Postal Service, The Gap, Pacific Stereo  
**Marital Status:** Single  
**Hobbies and Interests:** "Tinkering with the Camaro, puttin' around on the scooter, cow trailing on the Pursang (a motorcycle made in Barcelona), falling off waterskis.  
**Words of Wisdom:** "Figure out what you like, then go for it."



Photo: Jacqueline Heagle

*December Operator of the Month Runner-up Harland Lee*



# Awards



Photo: Jacqueline Heigle

*Outstanding Transportation Employee of the Fall Quarter Maria Williams*

## Outstanding Transportation Employee of the Fall 1990 Quarter

**Name:** Maria Williams  
**Division:** Transportation, Presidio Headquarters  
**Position:** Transit Passenger Service Specialist  
**Years with Muni:** 11  
**Background:**  
**Birthplace:** Manila, Philippines  
**Education:** Grade school in the Philippines; George Washington High School, SF; SF State University, Business and Finance  
**Previous Employment:** Pacific Telephone  
**Marital Status:** Married to Gregory Williams from Muni Telephone Information Center  
**Children:** Anthony, 7, and Jacqueline, 3.  
**Hobbies & Interests:** Going out with the kids, reading good fiction, anything that doesn't take too much energy but is still fun.  
**Words of Wisdom:** "Don't take unimportant things too seriously, do the best you can under the circumstances. Life is too short, take it easy. Try not to have too many regrets."

## December Maintenance Worker of the Month

**Name:** Lloyd Vigil  
**Division:** Potrero  
**Years with Muni:** 13  
**Background:**  
**Birthplace:** San Rafael, Colorado  
**Education:** Automotive trade school in Denver; automotive trade apprenticeship, Sacramento; high school diploma from Galileo High School  
**Previous Employment:** Standard Brands in SF  
**Marital Status:** Married last summer to Rose; Two adult daughters  
**Hobbies and Interests:** Boating, swimming and going to baseball and football games  
**Words of Wisdom:** "Be courteous to people. Put a smile on a sad face and it will reflect on you."



Photo: Carmen Magana

*December Maintenance Worker of the Month Lloyd Vigil*



# News



## More Gold Awards

Although we published what we thought were the last 1990 Gold Awards in the December issue, we were wrong. These PUC employees also earned Gold Awards in 1990:

*Claims:* Emy Marcelino.

*Reproduction:* Rodolfo Mendones. *Revenue and*

*Collections:* Alejandro Dizon, Willie Gee, Anthony Leggio, Elaine Lewis, Mary Travis, Eliezer Valle. Congratulations.

## Cable Car 16 Festival Wins Awards

Last spring, Muni's Community Affairs Department, in collaboration with Donald Blum Public Relations, held the Cable Car 16 Festival, attract-

year-old Cable Car 16 and to show the world that San Francisco had recovered from the earthquake of 1989.

At Muni's Annual Awards

Reception, Donald Blum Public Relations announced that the Cable Car 16 Festival had won two awards: the Hotel Sales & Marketing Association International Golden Bell Award and the SF Bay Area Publicity Club Award for the "Best 1990 Community Relations Program" in Northern California.

The Cable Car 16 Festival was chosen for the Golden Bell Award from 364 international entries!



*Kristie Dames of the Hotel Sales & Marketing Association announces the Cable Car 16 Awards with Mayor Agnos*

ing over 20,000 people, to celebrate the rebuilding of 99-

## Thanks to the Huntington Hotel

The Huntington Hotel warmed the hearts of cable car conductors and gripman during the



*A Huntington Hotel doorman hands out holiday cheer for California line cable car crews*

week of Christmas with special

gifts of coffee and muffins.

The California Street cable car line passes right in front of the Huntington Hotel and picks up many guests. As a way to say Merry Christmas and thank you for such good service, the hotel decided to hand out the special gift boxes three times a day at 7:30 a.m., 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. from December 24th through the 28th.

Thank you and Happy New Year to the Huntington.

## Get Your Bay Area Green Pages Today

Want to do something to help the environment? The *Bay Area Green Pages—The Local Handbook for Planet Maintenance* can help you. Published by the Green Media Group in Berkeley, the book contains sections on almost everything you might want advice on, including transportation, recycling, energy, food and agriculture, and pollution. The book includes a Consumer Guide for "green businesses," a list of public agencies that promote environmental awareness, and a section on where to find jobs with environmental organizations.

*The Green Pages* retails for \$12.95, but there is a discount if you order more than four books. For information, call the Green Media Group at 521-0884.

## Senior Metro Operator Honored

On Thursday, November 1st, the Green Light Rail Division hosted a surprise retirement party for outgoing operator Harold E. Blatch.

Blatch retired on November 2nd. Before his retirement, he was the longest-standing streetcar operator, having come to work for Muni on August 25th, 1952.

General Manager Johnny Stein and other Muni officials, co-workers, friends and family attended the celebration which provided food and music and featured several of Muni's finest vintage streetcars.

Harold Blatch had the universal respect of Green Light Rail and the rest of Muni. We'll miss you, Harold!



## Service Changed on the 29 Sunset

On Saturday, January 5th, the following changes in service on the 29 Sunset east of Third Street went into effect:

From Fitzgerald Avenue at Keith, coaches now operate via Fitzgerald, right on Griffith, left on Gilman Avenue, right on Giants' Drive, right on Ingerson Avenue, right on Hawes and left on Gilman.

Additional stops have been

added on Giants' Drive at Gilman, Ingerson at Griffith, Ingerson at Hawes and Hawes at Gilman. The rest of the line remains unchanged.

The 29 Sunset changes were approved by the SF Public Utilities Commission last summer following an informational neighborhood meeting that was held earlier last year.

## Opinion Corner

I'm writing on the subject of Vandalism of Transit Shelters (Muni Memo of November 1990). Frankly, I can't begin to fathom why it was decided to construct these shelters out of GLASS. Where was the common sense when this project was in the works? Glass transit shelters are just about as practical as a bead-curtain across the entrance to a bank vault!

A glass transit shelter beckons to vandals and seductively whispers: "Shatter me..." My suggestion: construct them from a durable and extremely tough plastic. This plastic should preferably be in a Paisley design in order to make any graffiti virtually illegible. If plastic shelters fell (inevitably) victim to vandalism, it's quite obvious they would cost a GREAT DEAL LESS to replace — thus saving many dollars and a lot of wear-and-tear on brooms! If, indeed, the original choice of glass for transit shelters was made in order to provide optimum visibility of the (perhaps unsavory) occupants, thus enabling a would-be passenger to change his mind and beat it around a corner — hopefully unobserved — then so be it. The choice, nonetheless, remains foolhardy. Paisley transit shelters constructed

of industrial-strength plastic could be designed in such a manner that small holes — perhaps two inches in diameter — would be dotted at random around the shelter — giving intending passengers of good moral fiber the opportunity to peer inside and "case the joint" so to speak. Anyone not wishing to engage in this activity, but wishing to provide maximum self-protection, could simply poke his or her umbrella through one of the holes and demand: "Who goes there — Friend or Foe?"

Rosemary Gilbert  
Cable Car Barn

(If you have opinions on any subject related to Muni, please send them to Muni Memo, Room 238, 949 Presidio Ave. We will not accept anonymous letters.)

# News



## Riders Speak

Dear Muni:

I was with a friend Nov. 27 on your bus line #17. We were almost the last to board and I stood by the bus driver asking for directions. The bus was crowded and a passenger pushed in front of me, turned and went behind me, grabbing my friend's pendant from her neck, then jumped off the bus amid a disturbance he created. One passenger — a witness to this — tried to catch the thief to no avail.

I am writing this to commend your driver Tyrone Honory for his attention, consideration, and professional demeanor. He held the bus, notified police, offered passengers to ride on the next bus, asking those to stay who could help with description and identification for police. Until they came, he took notes of what all of us had to say, and calmed my friend as best he could.

This man should be commended for his actions. The Muni is fortunate to have a driver whose intelligent behavior and professional calm is an asset to the public transportation system.

Respectfully,

Mrs. Dorothy Andre



*The newly elected Transport Workers Union 250-A Executive Board, (bottom row l to r): Charles Flintroy, Cable Car; Joe Barnes, Potrero; Bobbie Brown, President; William Sisk, Kirkland; Ray Antonio, Secretary/Treasurer; Bill Jung, staff representative (top row l to r): Sarita Britt, Flynn; Wilson Miles, Green; Weston Hatch, Presidio; Le Jeune Carter, Woods. Missing is Vice President, Claire Caldwell.*



*Awards Continued from pg.1*

ino, Flynn; Morgan Loo, Woods; and Joseph Watkins, Kirkland; and for special prizes of a photograph — David Ross, Woods; Theodore McCann, Kirkland; and Stephen Fonsworth, Motive Power.

The Annual Reception was also an opportunity for Muni to honor the many 1990 private contributors to the Railway: the Westin St. Francis Hotel; the Cathedral Hill Hotel; the SF Hilton; the Fairmont; the Holiday Inn Union Square, Civic Center and Financial District; the Sir Francis Drake Hotel; the Stanford Court Hotel; Le Meridien Hotel; the Four Seasons Clift; Transportation Displays, Inc.; Gannett Shelter Posters; Mariposa Press; the Gray Line; Hornblower Dining Yachts; Houlihan's; the Golden Gate Restaurant Association; the

Mark Reuben Gallery; KBLX Radio; the SF Municipal Railway Employees Federal Credit Union; the SF Muni Shopmen's Credit Union; Transport



*KBLX DJ's Kevin Brown and Josefa emcee the Awards Reception*

Photo: Carmen Magana

Workers' Union Local 200; Transport Workers Union Local 250A; and La Grone's Insurance.

And this year under a new Special Recognition category, Pacific Telesis, Doris Kahn and Lee Knight were singled out for

their unique contributions: Pacific Telesis donated \$75,000 to Muni's Graffiti Prevention Program; Kahn, San Francisco's mayoral appointee to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission since 1977, has consistently been an advocate for Muni projects and in particular, Elderly and Handicapped funding; and Knight, a former planner for the SF Public Utilities Commission, coordinated the massive Market Street Transit Thoroughfare Project, achieving a consensus from a diverse group of individuals, businesses and public agencies. He was also the principal staff person behind the development of the Proposition B 1/2-cent sales tax initiative approved by SF voters in 1989.

Thank you to all the employees and contributors whose generous work and/or donations helped Muni in 1990.

*PCC Continued from pg.1*

sidered part of Muni's regular revenue fleet, not part of the Historic Trolleys.

According to Chief Equipment Engineer Bob Highfill, "This is a fascinating project. There is overwhelming emotional sentiment about these cars in the transit industry. They're reliable, dependable and simple. Rebuilders and consultants want to be in on this project and other cities are calling us wanting to do the same thing."

The F line PCCs may turn out to be as big a draw as the cable cars. Plans are for each car to be painted in a different color scheme, reminiscent of the cities that ran PCCs once upon a time. Planner Duncan Watry and Community Affairs' Nicolas Finck have undertaken the monumental task of researching color schemes from

museums, libraries and transit companies in such cities as Cleveland, Cincinnati, Kansas City, Philadelphia and Louisville. There may be a maroon, silver, cream and green car representative of Philadelphia, for example; a cream, tan, and brown scheme from Cleveland; or a black, cream and green car from Louisville. And passengers may ride the cable cars in one direction and then take the PCCs in the other direction when they run to Fisherman's Wharf.

What does PCC stand for, by the way? It's an abbreviation for Electric Railway Presidents' Conference Committee. The first car went into service in 1936 as an attempt by transit companies to operate an improved and standardized streetcar to reverse the decline in transit use that began in the late 1920s. To use a phrase that

is rapidly becoming a cliché, Muni is jumping "back to the future," with a car that was used and now will continue to be used longer than almost any transit vehicle except perhaps for the cable car.

## Credits

The Muni Memo is published by the Community Affairs Department of Muni. Contributions and comments may be addressed to the Muni Memo, Room 238, 949 Presidio Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94115, telephone 923-6162.

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*Design & Layout:* Peter King

*Printing:* PUC/Muni

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